Dear Paul,

10/31/76

This is an update/forecast, probably all on King. I must get back to going over the first 442 pages of the FBI Headquarters files I've received. As you'll see from the letter I wrote Jim last evening after going over the first 10% of this stuff, they have finally tumbled to how to deal with a persistent cuss like me. My only real wonder there is whether they did this on their own or as the result of some form of surveillance. I saw the flaw in their approach long ago, when Green started making her fine judicial speeches while doing nothing. I discussed it with others, probably also by phone. It was certain to me once I won that sweeping decision from the court of appeals that they had nooother real choice.

Now I have to continue figuring out how I cope. I gave it no real thought to now, partly because I did not think of it and partly because I had no time. However, I think it is now better that I did not because now there will not have to be any theorizing in whatever approach I decide is best, subject to Jim's agreement.

Whatever its deficiencies and weaknesses, I continue to belive that for now as for the past couple of years the best hope is the courts. I will, therefore, be working out what I think holds best prospect there. This means in terms of their folkways and mores, their practises, their usual disregard of what is for them usual, and above all their traditional reluctance to confront government abuse and abusive government lawyers. As you have probably observed, my belief is that I must force direct judicial confrontation with these miserable people and what they do. Jim has less uneasiness about this than most lawyers but he remains uneasy about it. I was to have filed such charges against Ryan Friday and got the draft of an affidavit to him but he backed out and we did not file i So I build the record between me and Ryan separately. In time we'll use it.

It may be that by the end of the week I'll think other than I did after going over the first of these records. As of now I believe it is unlikely. Perhaps this is because earlier I had recognized the strategy they find essential and decided that their tactics only will shift. To date this is true.

However, this flood in which they seek to submerge me, ever so slowly, has some values, the real reason I write you before getting into today's work. I will wind up with something very unusual, the entire FBI headquarters file on the most costly crime in our history. As of now the cost looks like about $2,000 for xeroxes alone. In its social and political and criminalistics and historical value this will be unique. Unprecedented. I am farily confident that in time I'll get much more. My first push, which I began verballyin a private meeting, without Jim present Thursday morning, will be for the Memphis Field Office files. They are stonewalling. I want this to be pressed in court. We expect Green to issue an order perhaps this coming week. Dugan has file some form of opposition I'll start today's work by reading. Then I'll get back to all these teletypes, airtels, etc.

Before this is over I'm going to need support. I wonSt be able to raise all the costs of xeroxes alone. The known extent of the DJ and FBI files is 203,500 documents, not pages. of these only 2,3500 are in Washington. Assuming they continue as they are going, if these were but of a page each they'd cost close to $25,000. They are not uncommonly more. Based on what I've gone over these average perhaps two pages each. When I start getting reports of investigations there will be more pages per document. based on the thousands of pages of FBI reports I've obtained over the years. So there is in my mind the wonder if any of those you know, especially among the balcks in your industry, who have any interest in this rare, unprecedented opportunity to look into and have the records of the FBI relating to the King assassination. Or a wealthy liberal type of such interest.

If you have a chance to speak to Wexler again please let him know what I am getting. If he has any interests in the sources of all that is coming out I can send copies of cancelled checks, FBI receipts, court records, etc.

It seems to me, little as I know of Hollywoodian realities, that this kind of unique archive I'm getting should have many valuos not the least of which is commercial.

Best,